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BARN SWALLOW

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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OUR COVER

The cover picture is a reproduction of Edwin Sheppard's painting of a pair of Barn Swallows at the nest, which was included in Thomas G. Gentry's book, *Nest and Eggs of Birds of the United States* (Philadelphia, 1882). Gentry, an ornithologist of the late 1800's points out that the artist in order to show the inner arrangement, as well as the eggs in the nest, was "compelled to leave it partially exposed." He further states that the nest in its natural position was completely protected by the "eaves of the building against which it reposed."

A BARN SWALLOW BANDING PROJECT*

ANNE L. AND FREDERICK W. STAMM

In the summer of 1965 we initiated a Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) banding project at the University of Louisville Wildlife Sanctuary and continued it on consecutive seasons through the summer of 1972. Our chief objectives were to learn something about the activities of this migratory species and, in particular, whether the adult and fledgling birds returned to the same building in successive years, and to determine the breeding population of the nesting colony in the old cattle barn. This report summarizes our findings, largely in tabular form, of the eight seasons of banding. The detailed information gathered on the breeding cycle will be discussed in a later paper.

For permission to carry out the project we are indebted to Dr. Roger G. Lambert, University of Louisville, chairman of the biology department. Also, special thanks are due Mr. and Mrs. Charles Horner for our initial visit to the sanctuary, with them as our enthusiastic guides, and for Mrs. Horner's encouragement that the area be utilized for some specific bird project. Gratitude is also owed Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., for suggestions on one section of this paper.

The sanctuary is a 200-acre tract of submarginal land located in south central Oldham County. It is made up of open fields, some shrubby growth and steep to sloping wooded hillsides. The South Fork of Harrods Creek borders part of the area and Standing Stone Creek, a tributary of Harrods Creek, and two small artificial ponds, provide the water supply. A lake was added in recent years to increase or entice waterfowl. The majority of the trees are deciduous although some junipers are scattered throughout the area. In the open fields and thickets, near the barn, the more common plants include Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), Fleabane (*Erigeron philadelphicus*), Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*), Ox-eye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*), Queen Anne's lace (*Dacus carota*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and various species of asters.

This tract of land was purchased by Mrs. Charles Horner, a Life Member of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, and presented to the University of Louisville, about 14½ years ago. The lake mentioned above is also the gift of the donor. She was concerned over the rapid expansion of urban development in rural areas, and desired that some part should be preserved for posterity, thereby enabling future generations an opportunity to enjoy and study various species of birds and other aspects of our natural resources. This property is to serve as a field laboratory for the University in conducting scientific studies of the plants and animals of the region.

There are four abandoned buildings on the farm: a dilapidated farmhouse, tobacco barn, small shed, and the cattle barn, where the Barn Swallows nest on the rafters and beams of the lower story.

It was June of 1965 when we received permission to carry out the project and the nesting season was well advanced. The swallow nests were placed on the rafters or beams, close to the ceiling, and were about eight

*This paper was presented at the Kentucky Ornithological Society's Fall Meeting at Lake Cumberland, October 13, 1972, by Anne L. Stamm.

feet from the barn floor. The birds had easy access to the inside of the barn since open windows were on each side and large doors were at each end of the building. In an effort to obtain the information we wanted it was necessary to mark the birds in some permanent way so that, if and when they were subsequently recovered, they would be positively identified and their movements recorded; so, we used government bands. Our next effort was to determine the best way to capture the birds for banding. We used mist nets, but this did not prove to be an easy task. If the nets were placed on the outside of the barn they were visible to the birds and the swallows soon found some other means of entering the building. If the nets were placed inside of the barn, they were still visible even though the doors were closed. Once the birds were caught in the net, they became net shy. Upon their release from the net the birds emitted shrill twittering notes which seemed to alert all of the other swallows to not come near the barn. Anything to upset the breeding cycle was avoided and therefore netting was attempted only once or twice a week.

Four hundred and seventy-five Barn Swallows were banded during the study period. Of this number 130 were adult birds and 345 were young-of-the-year. In Table 1 the figures may be of interest since the detailed chronological banding and recovery data presented shows a comparison of the percentage of returns obtained from the birds available, with the percentage of returns obtained in relation to all of the adults captured in a given year (breeding season).

TABLE 1

**CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF BARN SWALLOWS BANDED
AND RECOVERED AS RETURNS AT
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, 1965-1972**

Year	Number Birds Banded		Total	Number Birds Available As Returns	Number Returns Obtained	Percentage Returns From Birds Available	Percentage Returns Among All Adults Captured
	Adults	Young					
1965	12	39	51	—	—	—	—
1966	18	58	76	51	2	3.92	10.00
1967	13	19	32	127	8	6.29	38.09
1968	14	65	79	159	4	2.51	22.22
1969	17	49	66	238	3	1.26	15.00
1970	21	48	69	304	8	2.63	27.58
1971	16	43	59	373	10	2.68	38.46
1972	19	24	43	432	14	3.24	42.42
	130	345	475		49		

It may be well to point out that in computing the figures for "Percentage returns from birds available" the time element involved includes all the preceding seasons while in the column "Percentage returns among all adults captured" the unit of time is for a single season. Also, it may be

well to mention that at least eight or nine months must have elapsed between the time the Barn Swallow has been banded and the time that it has been recovered or recaptured before it can be considered as a "return."

During the 1972 season 432 birds were available as returns. This refers to the number presumed available at the beginning of the summer of 1972 when work was resumed. It is quite possible that many of these birds had met with misfortune and that a much smaller number were available as returns. In Table 2 the 11.34% in the "Percentage returns" column is based on the number of returns secured as compared with the presumed number of birds available as such for the entire period of the project. It is of further interest that of the 111 possible returns of only adult birds banded (1965-1971) that 33 returned, or 29.7%. When considering the percentage of return of just the nestlings or birds-of-the-year only four returned, or 1.24%. These figures would seem to suggest that: 1) the mortality among young may be much higher than among adults, or 2) that the homing instinct is not as well developed in the first-year birds. At any rate the proportion of young returning to breed in the exact place of birth in this study is small. Also, it is possible that the young may move elsewhere to raise their young. Harriett H. Wright (*Inland Bird Banding News*, 46:2, 1974)

TABLE 2

**BARN SWALLOWS Banded AND RECOVERED AS RETURNS AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

Year 1965- 1972	Number Adults*	Birds Banded Young	Total	Number Birds Available As Returns	Number Of Returns Obtained	Percentage Returns
	130	345	475	432	49	11.34

* Sex of adults: Male 41
Female 42
Unknown 47

mentioned that of 203 Barn Swallows banded as nestlings during the summer seasons of 1968, 1969, and 1970, at Cherry Valley Farm, near Leeds, Alabama, none of them were among the returns during a netting operation to band adult swallows in the year 1969, 1970, 1971, and 1973. However, the banded adults "were found to return rather regularly, one recaptured each year of the banding operation." The first recovery of a nestling banded at Cedar Valley Farm "occurred during a banding operation in Franklin County, Alabama over 100 miles NW of the original site." This bird when captured and released had a brood patch and was three years old. Ms. Wright's finding then is similar to that of our study.

It quite naturally is obvious that the number of returns obtained is dependent, in part, upon the time spent in the field and the intensity in which the birds are netted. In 1972, 33 adult birds were captured and of this number 19 were unbanded, or new birds, perhaps from other colonies. Our highest count of active nests containing either eggs or young, at any given time, was 17.

If we consider the age of the swallows at the time of banding as compared with their "known age" at the time of capture or recovery as returns, we may note some indication of the survival rate of the adult and young groups (see Table 3). It is of interest that of the 49 recaptures on the 37 individual birds which returned, 33 (89.2%) were banded as adults, while 4 (10.8%) were banded as young-of-the-year. These figures may or may not suggest a high mortality rate during the first two years of life since only three birds banded as young out of a possible 321 were recaptured one year after banding and one bird three years after banding. Barn Swallows may be short-lived and again the nestlings may not come back to the place of hatching to raise their young as indicated above. Our study seems to imply that the majority of the young-of-the-year do not return to the place of birth but likely disperse to other colonies.

TABLE 3

**SUMMARY SHOWING THE NUMBER OF BARN SWALLOWS
BANDED, ALSO NUMBER AND KNOWN AGE OF THE 37
INDIVIDUALS RECOVERED AS RETURNS, 1965-1972**

No. Banded		No. Returns	Known Age At Time Of Recapture As Returns					
			At Least 1 Yr.	At Least 2 Yrs.	At Least 3 Yrs.	At Least 3 Yrs.	At Least 4 Yrs.	At Least 5 Yrs.
Adults	111	33	21			6	3	2
Young	321	4	3	1				1
Total	432	37	3	21	1	6	3	2

NOTE: We know that each adult at the time of banding was not less than one year old. Therefore, we have used the words "at least" for the two, three, four, five, and six year age groups. They may be much older. The phrase "at least" is not necessary for our one and three year age groups since these return birds were banded as young-of-the-year and consequently, we know their exact age.

TABLE 4

**BARN SWALLOW RETURNS AT U. OF L. WILDLIFE SANCTUARY,
1965-1972**

Band No.	Age At Banding	Sex	Date Of Banding	Date Of Return	Remarks
68-56614	Ad ¹	F ⁵	6-25-65	6-29-66	
68-56616	Ad	F	6-25-65	7-17-66	
				6- 4-67	
68-56658	Ad	U ⁶	8-13-65	6- 4-67	
68-56666	Ad	U	6-15-66	6-20-67	
68-56667	Ad	U	6-15-66	5-26-67	Recaptured on 7-21-67
68-56669	Ad	U	6-15-66	6-20-67	
68-56671	Ad	U	6-15-66	6-20-67	
62-49413	Ad	U	7-17-66	5-26-67	
62-49414	Ad	U	7-17-66	5-26-67	
62-49438	Ad	U	5-26-67	7- 1-68	
62-49439	Ad	F	5-26-67	7-15-69	
				5- 4-72	At least six years old on 5-4-72.
					Recaptured on 5-10-72

62-49463	L ²	U	7-21-67	6- 1-68 5-20-70	Recaptured on 6-29-70; three years old
62-49465	L	U	7-21-67	6-21-68	One year old; large brood patch
62-49467	L	U	8-13-67	6- 1-68	One year old; brood patch on date of recapture. Retaken on 8-1-68
62-49468	AHY ³	M ⁷	6- 1-68	8- 1-69	
62-49470	AHY	M	6- 1-68	5-17-71 7-13-72	At least five years old on latter date
62-49492	AHY	M	6-11-68	7-15-69 5-20-70 7-13-72	At least five years old on latter date
76-32747	AHY	M	5-28-69	5-20-70	
76-32748	AHY	M	5-28-69	7-22-70	
76-32781	AHY	F	6- 7-69	7-22-70 7-17-71 5- 4-72	Recaptured on 5-10-72 and on 7-13-72
76-32782	AHY	M	6- 7-69	5-20-70 7- 6-72	Recaptured on 7-18-72
76-32790	AHY	U	6-20-69	6-21-70 5-17-71 7- 6-72	At least four years old
69-53008	AHY	U	8- 1-69	8- 6-71	
69-53013	AHY	F	8- 1-69	6-29-70	
69-53016	AHY	U	5-20-70	5-17-71	
69-53018	AHY	U	5-20-70	5-17-71	
69-53021	AHY	M	5-20-70	5-17-71 7-13-72	
69-53023	AHY	M	5-20-70	5-17-71	
69-53024	AHY	M	5-20-70	5-17-71	
69-53027	AHY	U	6-29-70	5- 4-72	
69-53029	AHY	U	6-29-70	5-10-72	
69-53030	AHY	U	5-20-70	5-17-71	
69-53088	AHY	F	5-17-71	5- 4-72	
69-53094	AHY	F	6-11-71	5- 4-72	Recaptured on 6-18-72 and on 7-6-72
76-37502	AHY	F	8- 5-71	5- 4-72	
76-37503	HY ⁴	U	7- 7-71	6-18-72	One year old at time of recapture
76-37519	AHY	F	7- 7-71	5-10-72	Recaptured again on 7-6-72

1—Adult (banding code used before July 1967)

2—Local (a young bird incapable of sustained flight)

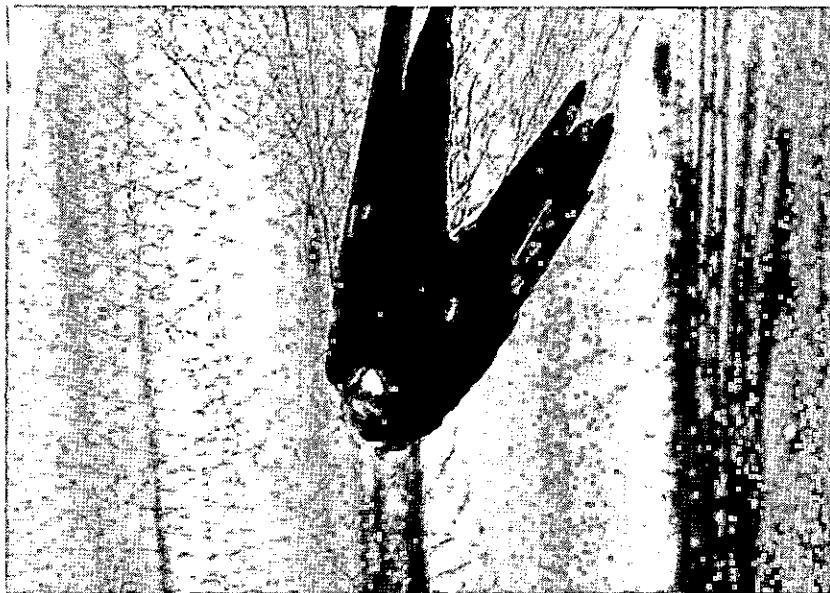
3—After hatching year — a bird known to have hatched before the calendar year of banding; year of hatch otherwise unknown.

4—Hatching year. A bird capable of sustained flight and known to have hatched during the calendar year in which it was banded.

5—Female

6—Sex unknown

7—Male



ADULT BARN SWALLOW CAUGHT IN MIST NET



CATTLE BARN WHERE BANDING PROJECT WAS CARRIED OUT

Also, we noted that several birds were found dead in the barn. The exact cause was not determined in these instances. Undoubtedly, some unbanded birds were victims of predation since a part of the body was eaten in at least one case, and parts of the body missing in another. King snakes were also noted in the barn on a few occasions. Some of these factors are associated with longevity in the Barn Swallows. And, too, when we think of the many hazards associated with the yearly migratory route to southern South America, a distance of some 6500 or more miles, it is remarkable that we have as high a survival rate as is indicated in Table 3. A complete list of all returns appears in Table 4 and shows that 31 individual birds were recovered approximately one year after banding, while 10 were recovered the second year after banding, five returned three years after banding, two birds were recovered four years after banding, and one bird five years after banding. Therefore, our oldest bird is at least six years of age. These figures show that with each succeeding year the number captured from earlier bandings decrease. This then would seem to indicate a considerable mortality among Barn Swallows of all ages. Perhaps then we could assume that the average life span of the species is not over two or three years.

As a result of the information obtained in this study, although limited, it would seem to warrant a continuance of the project.

—9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, Ky. 40222.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

1974-1975

Mid-winter bird counts were reported this year from eighteen localities. Weather conditions during the count period varied from excellent to extremely poor, and this had an effect on both the numbers of species and the numbers of individuals. The editor expresses his appreciation to all participants for the prompt return of the reports.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center The Trace and Mulberry Flat Road; Lake-river shore 35%, open fields and edge 25%, deciduous woodland 25%, cultivated fields 10%, residential 5%). — Dec. 16; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear in morning becoming partly cloudy in the afternoon; temp. 34°; wind SSW, 3-6 m.p.h. Twelve observers in four parties. Total party hours, 36 (17 on foot, 19 by car). Total party miles, 276 (21 on foot, 255 by car). Total, 73 species, 2,504,620 individuals.

This was one of the best count days in several years in respect to both the weather and the birds found. While none of the observations were exciting, neither the Common Snipe nor the Great Blue Heron have appeared on this count for a number of years. The Red-headed Woodpeckers are dramatically up in number again this year and the five Loggerhead Shrikes represents a significant increase in this species. The American Kestrel continues to be rare in Land Between the Lakes. There were few gulls at the dams and their distribution up and down the lakes made counting and identification difficult. The relatively few Bald Eagles observed may be significant. The Starling roost at the substructure under the highway crossing Kentucky Dam continues to grow with an estimated 2,500,000 birds. Although lake levels were and remain low, we were unable to find any late shorebirds. As late as December 9, however, Least Sandpipers (at least 15-19) were observed by Mike Miller at Bailey Hollow Flats, about 20 miles upstream from the count area on the west shore of Kentucky Lake. The chief advantage of the low lake for the Christmas count was the large number of Killdeer. — Larry Doyle, Shirley Gallimore, Bob Head, Mr. and Mrs. Harry McGurk, Murrell Madrey, Judy Parker, Clell T. Peterson (compiler), Lawrence Philpot, Virginia L. Puik, Robert D. Smith, Paul W. Sturm (Murray Bird Club).

MARION (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Grove). — Dec. 29; 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Light rain and fog, skies overcast; temp. 40° to 47°; wind calm. Two observers in two parties. Total party hours, 12 (9 on foot, 3 by car). Total party miles, 40 (10 on foot, 30 by car). Total, 51 species, 6,449 individuals.

Birds seen in the area but not on the count day included 800 Canada Geese and 9 Sharp-shinned Hawks. — Chastain L. Frazer, James A. Frazer, (compiler).

MADISONVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center J. W. Hancock farm, Brown road, Elk Creek, Ky. 892, municipal park, five lakes at Madisonville; deciduous forests and thickets 50%, lake shore 30%, open fields 20%). — Dec. 29; 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Cloudy; slight drizzle in a.m.; wind SW, 1-5 m.p.h. Six observers in two parties. Total party hours, 20 (18 on foot, 2 by car). Total party miles, 44 (6 on foot, 38 by car).

The abundance of waterfowl on Lake Pewee in particular was perhaps partially brought on by mild weather plus the protection afforded there, the lake now being a city wildlife refuge. However, the largest flock of American Coots (an estimated 1,000) was on Pleasant View Lake. The Pine Siskins were feeding on sycamore balls along a stream bank north of Lake Pewee and were recorded by C. Coffman and M. Travis. — Chip Coffman, Thelma Gentry, James W. Hancock (compiler), Allan Morgan, Mary Travis, Nathanael Travis.

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center park lodge area; deciduous and pine woods and fields within the park area, Pennyrile Lake and adjoining farmlands; wooded area 60%, open fields 15%, farmland 10%, lake shore 15%). — Dec. 27; 7:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.; cloudy; occasional drizzle to light rain; temp. 31° to 40°; wind 0 to 5 m.p.h. Six observers in two parties. Total party hours, 14 (13 on foot, 1 by car). Total party miles, 30 (10 on foot, 20 by car). Total, 44 species, 688 individuals.

Golden-crowned Kinglets were quite common throughout the pine woods, but Red-breasted Nuthatches appear to be scarce. Considering the weather and at times very poor visibility, we found more birds than we actually thought we would. — James Campbell, Jon Gray, Willard Gray, Gregory Hancock, James W. Hancock (compiler), Kim Neese.

SORGHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Sorgho; includes woods, open meadow land, spring fed stream). — Dec. 28; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy and damp; temp. 45° to 38°; wind calm to 5 m.p.h. Six observers in 2 parties. Total party hours, 28 (27 on foot, 1 by car). Total party miles, 56 (11 on foot, 45 by car). Total, 50 species, 3,339 individuals.

An increase was noted in Eastern Bluebirds and Myrtle Warblers and a decrease in cowbirds, woodpeckers, and doves. In general sparrow populations seem to be declining. Brown Thrashers are now regularly seen on our count. Snipe seem to vary little in number although it is a legal game bird. — Joe Ford (compiler), Raymon Iles, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson.

YELVINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center US 60, approximately 2 miles east of Maceo; Ohio River bottoms and Blackford Creek, Game and Fish farm, roadside thickets and fields, Carpenter's Lake). — Dec. 21; 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cloudy and damp all day; temp.

39°; wind 5-10 m.p.h. Four observers in two parties. Total party hours, 13 (5 on foot, 8 by car). Total party miles, 34 (6 on foot, 28 by car). Total 37 species, 839 individuals.

This was a poor count as seen by the low number of species and individuals. The absence of waterfowl in the Ohio river bottoms and around the lake area was discouraging. We were unable to cover all of the areas of previous years due to lack of observers. — Ramon Iles, A. L. Powell (compiler), Mrs. A. L. Powell, Mrs. Marvin Ray.

BOWLING GREEN (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, 6 miles south of Bowling Green). — Dec. 14; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear to partly cloudy; temp. 36° to 48°; wind NW, 0-8 m.p.h. Ten observers in 5 parties. Total party hours, 27 (24 on foot, 3 by car). Total party miles, 124 (19 on foot, 105 by car). Total 56 species, 2,371 individuals. — Scott Ford, Millard Gipson, Ed Hartowicz, L. Y. Lancaster, Homer Parrent, Jeb and Sim Pickard, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Saxton, H. E. Shadowen (compiler).

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Turnhole Bend Drive-Out). — Dec. 15; 7:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Rain until 2:30, from light to heavy, then clear skies; temp. 40° to 45°; wind calm. Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party hours, 23. Total party miles, 60 (11 on foot, 49 by car). Total, 43 species, 642 individuals.

Some of the park areas usually covered were missed this year, as the rain which lasted most of the day kept the birders near their cars. Consequently, the few water birds ordinarily seen on the count are missing. We saw nothing uncommon for the area and counted ourselves fortunate to tally even the low number of species and individuals in this report. — Mrs. George J. Ellis, Jr., B. R. Ferrell, Mrs. James Gillenwater (compiler), Wayne Mason, H. E. Shadowen, Russell Starr, Bob Van Hoff.

GLASGOW (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Haywood community; Beaver creek area; Skagg's creek and Brigadoon farm south of Glasgow; ramps and bridges of Barren River Reservoir). — Dec. 28; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Overcast; temp. 40° to 38°; wind W, 0-2 m.p.h. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party hours, 38. Total party miles, 99 (9 on foot, 90 by car). Total, 50 species, 111,043 individuals.

Low ceiling and day-long fog resulted in poor visibility. Previously covered areas of sparrow habitat were sadly lacking due to the intrusion of farming and bulldozers. A large blackbird roost is located south of Glasgow. — Marquita Gillenwater, Wayne Mason, Faye and Russell Starr (compiler).

OTTER CREEK PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 2 miles southwest of park entrance, area as described 1972). — Dec. 26; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear to cloudy in a.m., overcast in p.m.; sleet began at 4:45 p.m.; temp. 26° to 35°; wind E-SW, 8-6 m.p.h. Eight observers in 3 parties. Total party hours, 23 (13 on foot, 10 by car). Total party miles, 89 (20 on foot, 69 by car). Total 50 species, 1,344 individuals.

The 1974 count was low and birds seemed unusually difficult to find. Waterfowl were almost absent. However, a Common Loon was noteworthy, and is the first one to appear on a Christmas Count since 1961. It was interesting to find both the Herring and Ring-billed Gulls since they are seldom reported from this area. Woodpeckers appeared in normal numbers. The few Robins and absence of Cedar Waxwings may be due to the lack of cedar and dogwood berries. In fact, the wild food crop was very poor. A large number of Golden-crowned Kinglets - 49 - were of special interest. — Joseph Croft, Diane and Jack Elmore, Barry Howard, Wilbur Jackson, Donald Parker, Anne Stamm (compiler), Frederick W. Stamm.

BERNHEIM FOREST (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Lookout Tower 2.75 miles SE of forest entrance). — Dec. 28; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. temp. 38° to 40°; wind S, 1-3 m.p.h. Seventeen observers in 5 parties. Total party hours, 40 (18 on foot, 22 by car). Total party miles, 244 (20 on foot, 224 by car). Total, 53 species, 4,793 individuals. — Sister Ann Bell, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, William Buntin, George Crabtree, Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Elmore, Bill and Ruby Games, Lyzabeth Hughes, Donald Parker, Jim and Susie Pasikowski, Jon Rickert, Lawrence Smith (compiler), Midge and Al Susie.

LOUISVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center junction of Highways 42 and 22, as in previous years). — Dec. 22; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mostly clear; temp. 25° to 53°; wind variable, 0-5 m.p.h. Most fresh water open. Twenty-six observers in 10 parties. Total party hours, 81 (38 on foot, 37 by car, 6 by boat). Total party miles, 393 (39 on foot, 339 by car, 15 by boat). Total, 79 species, 60,816 individuals.

In general, waterfowl and northern finches are down in number this year, although all-time highs for Louisville were set on the Canvasback and Purple Finch. The relative mildness of the winter thus far was also responsible for the high number of Ruby-crowned Kinglets and the presence of the one extreme rarity, the Wilson's Warbler. The latter bird, a male, was discovered on December 8 by Brainerd Palmer-Ball and seen again at the same location on the count day. Its distinctive plumage (bright yellow with black cap) plus its characteristic gnatcatcher-like behavior made identification certain. — Ned Baker, Donald Blackburn, Leonard Brecher, Mike Brown, William Buntin, Catherine Clay, Joseph Croft, Violet Jackson, Wilbur Jackson, Frank Krull, Burt Monroe Jr. (compiler), Brainerd Palmer-Ball, James Pasikowski, Lene Rauth, Harry Rea, Mary Rea, Jon Rickert, William Rowe, Tim Ramage, Carl Schultz, Mabel Slack, Lawrence Smith, Anne Stamm, Frederick Stamm, Midge Susie (Beckham Bird Club).

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1974-1975		LAND BETWEEN LAKES																	
		MAHON	MADISONVILLE	PENNYRILE ST. PARK	SORGOH	YELVINGTON	BOWLING GREEN	MAMMOTH CAVE N. P.	GLASGOW	OTTER CREEK	BERNHHEIM FOREST	LOUISVILLE	SHELBYVILLE	DANVILLE	LEXINGTON	WILLARD	FRANKFORT	KLEBER	
COMMON LOON			1			1				1				3	1			4	
HORNED GREBE			7			8				1	2	5		1	8		2	1	
PIED-BILLED GREBE							4		1			*		8			22		
GREAT BLUE HERON					*				17			124		1			176		
CANADA GOOSE	838								2	17		602	44	84	222		19	6	
MALLARD	715	50	23		*		13					698	1	7	10		2		
BLACK DUCK	182	14										21		5					
GADWALL	22		2									2							
PINTAIL	2													3					
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	3						10										1		
BLUE-WINGED TEAL												20			8		14		
AMERICAN WIDGEON	2		10												3				
NORTHERN SHOVELER																			
WOOD DUCK	8			1	*		11				2			14	1				
REDHEAD																			
RING-NECKED DUCK	375		1500	9								35	7						
CANVASBACK			116								1	162		1	2		1		
LESSER SCAUP	*		2									130							
COMMON GOLDENEYE	4	5	5									2			2				
BUFFLEHEAD	7	10											6	1	5				
OLD SQUAW													3						
RUDDY DUCK												1							
HOODED MERGANSER	32		4								1								

25	2	3	11	*	1	11	*	1
COMMON Merganser								
RED-BR. Merganser								
TURKEY Vulture								
BLACK Vulture								
SHARP-SH. Hawk								
COOPER'S Hawk								
RED-TAILED Hawk								
RED-SH. Hawk								
ROUGH-L. Hawk								
GOLDEN Eagle								
BALD Eagle								
MARSH Hawk								
AMERICAN Kestrel								
BOBWHITE								
AMERICAN COOT								
KILLDEER								
SPOTTED SANDPIPER								
COMMON SNipe								
HERRING GULL								
RING-BILLED GULL								
BONAPARTE'S GULL								
ROCK Dove								
MOURNING Dove								
BARN Owl								
SCREECH Owl								
GREAT HORNED Owl								
BARRED Owl								
LONG-EARED Owl								
SHORT-EARED Owl								
BELTED KINGFISHER								
YELLOW-SH. FLICKER								
PILEATED WOODPECKER								
RED-B. WOODPECKER								
RED-H. WOODPECKER								
YEL-B. SAPSUCKER								
HAIRY WOODPECKER								
DOWNY WOODPECKER								
EASTERN PHOEBE								

SHELBYVILLE (all points within a 9-mile diameter circle, beginning at the Jephtha Knobs, 6 miles E of Shelbyville, then to Guist creek, along Keys Rd., U.S. 60, Benson Rd. and Boat Dock Rd., then to Lake Shelby, Mary Ross Lake, Grove Hill Cemetery, Southville, Salem church, and along Beech creek). — Dec. 28; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 36° to 48°; wind SW, 0-5 m.p.h. Two observers in 1 party. Total party hours, 9 (8 on foot, 1 by car). Total party miles, 42 (6 on foot, 36 by car). Total, 36 species, 587 individuals. — W. H. Brown (compiler), Wm. Todd Brown.

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse). — Dec. 21; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 23° to 40°; wind westerly, 5-10 m.p.h. Fresh water open; wild food crop fair. Twenty-seven observers in 10 parties. Total party hours, 72 (22 on foot, 50 by car). Total party miles, 461 (17 on foot, 444 by car). Total, 60 species, 30,340 individuals. — W. C. Alcock, Frederick Brown, Charlotte and Margaret Caldwell, Harry and Molly Caldwell, Gordon and Jean Freese, Edna Heck, Frank Heck (compiler), Dorothy and West Hill, Moseill Jester, J. W. Kemper, F. W. and Naomi Loetscher, Alice and Michael Marsh, Margaret Myers, Joanne Neuman, Margaret Reid, Louise and Wilbur Robinson, Barry Spoonamore, James Thompson, H. M. and Lillian Wiley.

LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center East Hickman on Tates Creek Pike). — Dec. 28; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Overcast to cloudy; temp. 36° to 41°; wind NW, 3-10 m.p.h. Intermittent showers. Twenty-eight observers in 11 parties. Total party hours, 61 (27 on foot, 34 by car). Total party miles, 296 (26 on foot, 270 by car). Total, 72 species, 6742 individuals. — Ellen Allen, Mary Potts Burns, Jerry Byrd, Bryan T. Doon, Ruth Davis, Lyda Feck, Michael Flynn, Overton Green, Mrs. Overton Green, Maude Hurt, Colin Hyde, Anna Mae Helton, Betty Maxson, Robert Morris, Alfred Reece (compiler), Jerry T. Reece, Virginia Reece, Barbara Ruff, Connie Schwein, Richard Schwein, Frances Shive, Leona Skiles, Paul Street, Andrew Uterhart, Mariam Uterhart, Conley Webster, James Wood, Hilda Woods.

WILLARD (same territory as that covered Dec. 26, 1937 and the 37th consecutive count; a ten-mile hike through creek bottom, old fields, and woodland areas). — Dec. 26; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. temp. 32° to 36°; wind W, 3 m.p.h. One observer. Total party hours, 7 (all on foot). Total party miles, 10 (all on foot). Total, 19 species, 419 individuals. — Ercel Kozee (compiler).

FRANKFORT (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of US 227 and KY 1900; area as described in 1972). — Dec. 14; 7:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Mostly clear; temp. 33° to 49°; wind SE, 0-8 m.p.h. Water open, ground bare. Fifteen observers in 6 parties. Total party hours, 43 (36 on foot, 7 by car). Total party miles, 199 (35 on foot, 164 by car). Total, 60 species, 3,599 individuals.

While most raptors are noted infrequently these days, the Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel are certainly holding their own on our count. Pileated Woodpeckers continue a dramatic increase in the Frankfort area with the 14 reported exactly doubling our previous high reported last year. Carolina Wrens and Eastern Bluebirds were also reported in unusual numbers, possibly reflecting our recent mild winters. Our count confirms that we have no substantial blackbird roosts in our area except for the usual Starling roosts in downtown Frankfort. — William Caine, Jr., Dennis Coskren, Peggy Derryberry, James Durell, Bill and Charles Grayson, Pat and Scott Hankla, Faith Hershey, Howard Jones (compiler), Robert Morris, Sally and Steven Rice, Glen Wells, Ferol Wilkerson.

KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of US 227 and KY 845 in Owen County; area as described in 1972). — Dec. 28; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Heavily overcast; temp. 36° to 39°; wind W, 0-5 m.p.h. Ground bare and very wet; all water open. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party hours, 11 (7 on foot, 4 by car). Total party miles, 102 (10 on foot, 92 by car). Total, 42 species, 1,329 individuals. — Peggy Derryberry, James Durell, Howard Jones (compiler), Margaret Lafontaine.

(Editor's note: An additional mid-winter bird count is included in the field notes; it was not included in the above tabulation because it covered a period of two days).

FIELD NOTES

LAKE CARNICO AREA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, 1974

The Lake Carnico area is an excellent area for comparative annual bird counts as it is compact (about 600 acres in all with the lake comprising 200 acres), quite varied in habitat (lake, marsh, overgrown field, dense woods, and cabin dooryards), completely penetrated by little-used secondary roads and pathways, and the home (primary or resort) of many interested birders. The location is Outer Bluegrass in northern Nicholas County, Ky. at 900 to 950 feet elevation.

This first count was incomplete since it represented the efforts of only four participants (Dr. and Mrs. Jack T. Morford and Dr. and Mrs. Wendell R. Kingsolver) with a total observation time of about three birder-days. Unfortunately two separate days within Christmas week had to be utilized, so only the larger number of each bird species seen on one day was recorded to prevent double-counting of individuals. Thirty-eight species were recorded, including 1 Horned Grebe, 410 Mallards, 75 Black Ducks, 1 Blue-winged Teal, and 4 Common Mergansers.

Some discussion of the large number of Mallards is in order, as an undetermined number of these ducks are only semi-feral, having been introduced to the lake, regularly fed and protected by some of the Carnico residents. A pair of Blue Geese and a pair of Mute Swans were also introduced and are year-round residents. Clearly however, the majority of the Mallards listed are migratory birds. — WENDELL R. KINGSOLVER, RFD 2, Carlisle, Ky. 40311.

SUMMER BOBOLINK IN OWEN COUNTY

On June 16, 1974, while participating in the annual Breeding Bird Survey conducted by the Federal Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, I observed a male Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) in Owen County, Ky. Until recently the Bobolink has been listed as a transient in Kentucky; however, Croft (*Kentucky Warbler*, 48:40, 1972) has reported young out of the nest in Oldham County.

There was limited time for observation under the rules of the Breeding Bird Survey. The Bobolink was perched in the top of a small Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) located about 75 feet from the highway in a mixed hayfield of timothy, clover, and orchard grass. Location was on KY 845 about halfway between Long Ridge and Sweet Owen. The farms in the area are cleared with much of the land in hay fields of alfalfa or mixed timothy and clover. This record could indicate the presence of breeding Bobolinks in Owen County and give evidence of a further southward spread of the species. — HOWARD P. JONES, Route 6, Box 119, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

SANDHILL CRANES AT FRANKFORT

About an hour before sundown on November 28, 1974, while unloading firewood at my home near Frankfort, I became aware of unfamiliar sounds in the distance. These persisted and seemed to come closer until my attention was drawn to a large flock of birds approaching high out of the clear sky from the north. My son, Jeff, set up our spotting scope while I got binoculars. These were obviously large birds showing a flight silhouette with neck fully extended and long legs trailing. No color patterns were noted; the birds appeared uniformly gray. There was a small irregular group of twelve, followed by an irregular wedge of 125 birds, while some distance behind was a compact group of six, then two singles straggling farther behind. As the flock passed overhead the repeated, vibrating, almost honking notes seemed to be filling the sky. The flight proceeded precisely north to south at an estimated 1,000 foot altitude and was in view about five minutes. They were obviously Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*).

Most authorities agree that Sandhill Cranes are very rare transients of irregular occurrence in Kentucky. As far as I can determine, this is the first published record for Franklin County and is one of the few records in the Bluegrass Region. The date of this observation is well within recorded fall migration dates for Kentucky (Mengel, *Birds of Kentucky*, 1965, p. 229, and Monroe, *Kentucky Warbler*, 45:49, 1969); however, this appears to be an unusually large flock for modern times. — HOWARD P. JONES, Route 6, Box 119, Frankfort, Ky. 40601.